Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASUNCI 03771 311253Z ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 /098 W -------043255 010627Z /17

R 311231Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3887 INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS ASUNCION 3771

E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: SHUM. PA

SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKERS'/RELATIVES TRY SIT-IN AT PAPAL NUNCIATURA

REF: ASUNCION 3697

- 1. THE HUNGER STRIKE BY THE LAST 17 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN EMBOSCADA PRISON CONTINUES INTO ITS TWENTIETH DAY WITH NO INDICATION IT WILL END SOON. ABOUT 15 TO 20 PERSONS INCLUDING WOMEN AND CHILDREN, RELATIVES OF THE HUNGER-STRIKERS, WENT TO THE PAPAL NUNCIATURA SOMETIME AFTER 11:00 A.M. AUGUST 30 AND REFUSED TO LEAVE WHEN INVITED TO DO SO. THE PAPAL NUNCIO, AS DEAS, WAS HOLDING A MEETING OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AT THE TIME.
- 2. THE PRISONERS' RELATIVES HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DRAMATIZE THE PLIGHT OF THE PRISONERS AND APPARENTLY DECIDED UPON A SIT-IN IN THE NUNCIATURA. PRESUMABLY THEY FEEL SAFER ON "FOREIGN TERRITORY" THAN THEY WOULD IN A PLACE EASILY ACCESSIBLE TO THE POLICE.

WE ARE TOLD NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOP AND CHURCH AUTHORITIES TO END THE HUNGER STRIKE ARE CONTINUING. IN THE MEANTIME, REQUESTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARAGUAYAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE, CARMEN DE LARA CASTRO, AND A DELEGATION FROM A UNITED FRONT OF OPPOSITION UNCLASSIFIED

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PARTIES, TO MEET WITH THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN. WHITE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

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